

ELIGIBILITY

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS (GRADES 7 & 8)

The Wallington Board of Education has assumed the responsibility of offering various athletic activities for Wallington Junior High School Students. This includes soccer, volleyball and boys' and girls' basketball as of the 2007-2008 school year. In order to create a balance between the students' academic responsibilities and the privilege of competing on the junior high school teams, an eligibility requirement has been established for participation in these programs.

FALL SEASON (SOCCER & VOLLEYBALL)

Grade Level

- In order to participate in these activities a student will have to be in grade 7 or 8 for the first time.
- Students in either grade level due to an academic retention will not be permitted to participate in the fall activities.

Academic Average

- If either schedule extends into the second marking period, the team member will be removed from the team if he/she fails more than one subject in the first marking period.
- Special services students are exempt from this requirement. Their participation in terms of academic performance will be determined by the principal, child study team chairperson, case manager and counselor.
- **LEP students are exempt from this requirement. Their participation in terms of academic performance will be determined by their level of ESL placement (I, II or III), and an assessment by the ESL supervisor, teacher, and counselor.**

Citizenship

- A student must have had a passing average (80 or better) for the previous year to try out for the team.
- If either schedule extends into the second marking period, the team member must have a passing average in citizenship for the first marking period to continue to participate. A failing average will result in removal from the team.
- Special services students are exempt from this requirement if behavior is a component of their classification. In this case their participation in terms of citizenship will be determined by the principal, vice-principal, child study team chairperson, case manager, SAC and counselor.

WINTER SEASON (BASKETBALL)

Academic Average

- A student who is repeating either grade will be permitted to participate in the basketball season if he/she passes all subjects in the first marking period.
- In order to be a member of a junior high school basketball team a boy/girl may not fail more than one subject in the first marking period.
- If the schedule extends into the third marking period, the team member will be removed from the team if he/she fails more than one subject in the second marking period.
- Special services students are exempt from this requirement. Their participation in terms of academic performance will be determined by the principal, child study team chairperson, case manager and counselor.
- **LEP students are exempt from this requirement. Their participation in terms of academic performance will be determined by their level of ESL placement (I, II or III), and an assessment by the ESL supervisor, teacher and counselor.**

Citizenship

- A student must have had a passing average (80 or better) for the first marking period to try out for the team.
- If either schedule extends into the third marking period, the participant must have a passing average in citizenship for the first two marking periods to continue to participate in this activity.
- Special services students are exempt from this requirement if behavior is a component of their classification. In this case their participation in terms of citizenship will be determined by the principal, vice-principal, child study team chairperson, case manager, SAC and counselor.

The administration reserves the right to remove a participant from any of the junior high school athletic teams due to behavioral, academic, or attendance matters.

WALLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY
(GRADES 9 – 12)

A. Athletics

This policy encompasses participation of students in Grade 9-12 only.

1. Age-As per Article V, 4.c of the NJSIAA Bylaws, an athlete cannot participate in interscholastic athletics if he or she has reached the age of nineteen (19) prior to September 1st of the year in question. **The NJSIAA will consider waivers to this rule in “only truly extraordinary circumstances”.** Handicapped students who, as a result of their I.E.P., are required to extend their educational program beyond the customary twelve years, may be waived from this rule in non-contact sports where safety is not a factor. This waiver will not be available to an athlete who has reached the age of 20 before the start of a particular athlete season. This waiver is not available to a student whose classification occurred just prior to or during the student’s secondary schooling.
2. Academics-To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (Sept. 1-Jan. 31) of the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, a student must have earned **27.5** credits the previous school year. To be eligible for competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 – June 30), the student must have a passing average, 70 or better, in a minimum of five full year courses or the equivalent of **13.75** credits.

If a student is eligible at the beginning of a season, he/she will remain eligible for that entire season. Students who are ineligible for the first semester may participate in the athletic program as of February 1 if they have earned **13.75** credits during the first semester. (First two marking periods) All handicapped students are waived from the credit requirement **pending Child Study Team and Principal’s approval.**

3. Attendance policy: If a student is in violation of the high school attendance policy he/she will lose credit for the courses in question. A student must be in attendance during the session (a.m. or p.m.) immediately preceding the athletic activity, unless excused by the principal or his designee because of an emergency, in order to participate in that activity.
4. Physical – Before being permitted to practice or participate in any athletic season, a student must undergo a comprehensive physical exam conducted by our school physician or the student’s personal physician if he/she so desires. A student who chooses to go to his/her personal physician must assume the cost of the physical. A student who participates in more than one sport need only undergo a comprehensive exam for the initial sport. A more general physical for subsequent sports will suffice.
5. Parental Permission – A student must submit a parental permission card signed by his/her parent or guardian for each season of competition.

B. “Co-Curricular Activities”

Co-curricular activities include band, marching unit, cheerleading, student council, class officers, clubs, yearbook, school newspaper the school play, academic decathlon, mock trial, etc.

1. Age – any student enrolled in our school may take part in any of the co-curricular activities regardless of age unless a minimum age requirement is stated in the constitution of the group or school policy.
2. Academics – several co-curricular activities such as student council, class officers and cheering squads have academic clauses in their constitutions or by-laws. Other activities do not have academic requirements.
3. Attendance – As in athletic competition, a student must be present during the school session immediately preceding the activity unless excused for emergency reasons by the principal or his designee.
4. Physical – A comprehensive physical exam by the school physician is required only for participation in the band, marching unit and cheering squads.
5. Parental Permission – Parental permission forms signed by the parent or guardian and signed student permission cards must be submitted if a student is to participate in cheering or the band and marching unit.
6. Citizenship – The cheerleading and student government constitutions contain clauses regarding passing citizenship grades and participation in those activities.

Adopted: September, 1999

Revised: August 23, 1999